



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
February 2003



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## MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests

### Test Administration Training— Q & A

Thank you for attending the training sessions and for raising important questions. Here are those questions and their answers.

## Assessment for Learning

Topic	Question	Answer
Title 1 Math and Language Arts	This year the state doesn't require coding of Title I Language and Math students. Where would a district that wants to keep records on these students code them?	Code them where you have in the past, in the <b>Program</b> section of the answer document as T1L or T1M after the student has completed the test.
Calculator Use	Where is the best place to get accurate and current guidelines on calculator use?	Click here or use the Tips for Classroom Test Administrations in the 2003 Update to the 2002 Montana Guide.
Other 1 (O1) and Other 2 (O2) Directions	Where is the best place to get accurate and current definitions of the O1 and O2 coding?	In the 2003 Update to the 2002 Montana Guide on page 7. O1: student <b>has not</b> been enrolled in the school for the entire year. O2: Student <b>has not</b> been enrolled in the district for the entire year.
Alternate Assessment Materials	Will special education directors receive updated materials on alternate assessment?	No. The Assessment Handbook, Volume 3 and the Alternate Assessment Scales for grades 4, 8, and 11 were updated in 2002 and are online. Paper copies were sent to special education directors in 2002.

## ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

<b>Title I Students in Private Nonaccredited Schools</b>	Who tests Title I students in private nonaccredited schools?	The districts in which the school is located. OPI will contact test coordinators in those districts.
<b>Parent Report for Alternate Assessment</b>	Is there a report to send to parents for alternate assessment results?	Yes, a report template was created in 2002 and is available online.
<b>Montana Proficiency Levels</b>	How do we convert the scores on the NRT to the Montana Proficiency Levels.	Click here for a table showing relationships between Montana Proficiency Levels, National Percentile Rank, and Normal Curve Equivalent.
<b>ELL and Foreign Exchange Students</b>	We have exchange students who were not born in the U.S. and whose native language is a language other than English. Are they considered ELL/LEP?	If they entered the country with student visas, they are technically supposed to be proficient enough in English to participate in regular classes, but this is not always the case. International students meet the first part of the LEP definition and may or may not meet the second part related to achieving in English-language classrooms. If the indication from the teachers is that they are struggling in English (a good indication would be writing assessments), social studies, perhaps science, they would be considered LEP. For the Iowa Tests, if they were identified as LEP, they could perhaps benefit from extended time in reading but might not need any accommodation in math, for example.
<b>Accommodations and Title I Students</b>	Can Title I students take the tests with accommodations?	No, the current procedures do not provide accommodations for Title I students. Accommodations may be provided only for students with a current IEP or those identified as having Limited English Proficiency. Click here for an explanation.

**NEW:** Comprehensive Test Administration Training is online in a video streaming format. To access directions, click here:

[http://data.opi.state.mt.us/Scripts/rightnow.cfg/php.exe/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faaid=796&p\\_created=1035582728](http://data.opi.state.mt.us/Scripts/rightnow.cfg/php.exe/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=796&p_created=1035582728)

## MontCAS, Phase 1, the Norm-Referenced Test, the Iowas

### Test Administration Reminders:

- **NEW:** Different address for scoring this year. Please do not use last year's labels. When you send your answer documents to Riverside, use the labels provided with this year's materials.
- **Materials** to aid with test administration are online at: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html>
- **NEW:** Authorized signature form. Test coordinators, please inform school administrators about the form, the dates, and the link.
  - o Form will be mailed from OPI to each school administrator by March 10
  - o Purpose of the form
    - ✓ Participation information
    - ✓ Validation of test administration procedures
  - o School administrator completes, signs, and faxes form to OPI no later than April 7

- Dates to remember
  - o March 3  
May begin 4th Grade Practice Tests
  - o March 10  
School administrators receive authorized signature forms in the mail from OPI
  - o March 10-28  
Testing Window including make up tests
  - o April 7  
Last day for test coordinators to send materials to Riverside
  - o April 7  
Last day for school administrators to fax authorized signature forms to OPI

## MontCAS, Phase 2, the Criterion-Referenced Test

**NEW:** Contacting Measured Progress. Instead of calling the switchboard, we are now able to directly contact the Montana representatives at Measured Progress. The new numbers are:

Phone: 1-888-792-2741  
FAX: 1-877-537-5614

### Pilot Test Participants

Participants in the pilot for the criterion-referenced test include 147 districts, 304 schools, and 419 teachers. The pilot test of Montana items developed by Montana educators and Measured Progress will be conducted April 14-25.

### Teacher as Assessor Workshops Planned

- Designed for classroom teachers.
- Mileage and substitute reimbursement and on site breakfasts and lunches are provided.
- Educators will be asked to register online or by telephone if they do not have access to an online service.
- Workshop dates and locations:
  - April 28: Doubletree, Missoula
  - April 29: Copper King, Butte
  - April 30: Holiday Inn, Great Falls
  - April 29: Carney Center, Glendive
  - May 1: Sheraton Hotel, Billings



### Important Dates from Measured Progress

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|-------------------------|---|
| March 3                 | Measured Progress will begin mailing manuals for test coordinators and tests administrators in districts selected for the pilot. The materials should arrive March 12-14. |
| March 5                 | Measured Progress will begin mailing invitations to school administrators for the Teacher as Assessor workshops.  |
| March 28                | Measured Progress will begin mailing pilot test materials to districts. Materials will arrive in Montana April 2-4.   |
| April 14-25<br>April 28 | Pilot test window<br>Schools return all testing materials to district test coordinator.   |

## Technical Advisory Committee for Criterion-Referenced Test

The development of the criterion-referenced test includes the need for psychometric and statistical expertise. Item development and selection, standard-setting, and sampling plans are technical procedures. Part of the contract with Measured Progress is the formation of a technical advisory committee made up of experts in test design and psychometrics. Montana's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets twice a year to review the status of test development. Members of that committee are:

Art Bangert	Assistant Professor	Montana State University
BJ Granbery	Title I Director	Montana Office of Public Instruction
Sharon Houle	Program Manager	Measured Progress
Neal Kingston	Senior Vice President	Measured Progress
Scott Marion	Senior Associate	National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment
Mike Nering	Psychometrician	Measured Progress
Stanley Rabinowitz	Program Director	WestEd
Nam Raju	Distinguished Professor	Institute of Psychology
Steve Sireci	Associate Professor	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Judy Snow	State Assessment Director	Montana Office of Public Instruction
Wes Snyder	Assistant Vice President	University of Montana
Kevin Sweeney	Division Director	Measured Progress

## NEW: Title I Information

For a copy of the joint U.S. Department of Education and Department of Agriculture letter providing guidance on the implementation of new requirements of Title I by schools that operate school lunch programs, click on this link:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/22003.html>.

Please give this information to district Title I directors.

## Teacher Attitudes and Testing

How does your attitude affect testing? Authors Kathe Taylor and Sherry Walton suggest that teachers test their attitudes by taking the "Twitch Test." The article, "Test Your Attitude" is in the Jan/Feb 2001 *Scholastic Instructor* on pages 10 and 11. If the article is not available in your area, please contact Raelen Williard in the OPI Resource Center, (406) 444-2082 or [rwilliard@state.mt.us](mailto:rwilliard@state.mt.us).

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